GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

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SHORTAGE OF SCIENTISTS IN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of staff and scientists in the research institutions operated under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Agricultural Universities and Agro Science Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, University-wise;

(c) whether the number of agricultural scientists is very low in India in comparison to other countries in the world; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) extends limited financial assistance to State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) for strengthening & development of agricultural education. Filling up positions in the SAUs is in the domain of the concerned State Government. However, there are some vacancies in the scientific cadre under the Council.

(b) 1931 vacancies in various grades of the scientific cadre exist in the ICAR Institutions as on 31.03.2007. These vacancies were primarily
(i) due to restrictions imposed on filling up of vacancies on direct recruitment since May, 2001 and
(ii) mass retirement after October, 2005 consequent on enhancement of the age of superannuation from 60 to 62 years. State Agricultural Universities are under the State Governments and their vacancy position is not maintained by ICAR.

(c) As per available information the position of Agricultural Scientists in India, China and USA is as under:-

(i) India : 0.0214 per thousand population
(ii) China : 0.0228 per thousand population
(iii) USA : 0.05307 per thousand population

(d) Steps have initiated to get all the vacancies in the scientific cadre filled up on top priority basis for which the recruitment process is in different stages at the Agricultural Scientists` Recruitment Board (ASRB).